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16 May 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing by the Director of CIA Subcommittee of House
Armed Services - 16 May 1967

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1. The Director, accompanied by [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] met with the CIA Subcommittee of House Armed Services.
Present from the Subcommittee were:

L. Mendel Rivers
Philip J. Philbin
F. Edward Hebert
Melvin Price
O. C. Fisher
Porter Hardy, Jr.
Charles E. Bennett
William H. Bates
Leslie C. Arends
William G. Bray
Charles A. Halleck

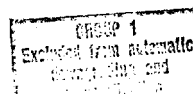
Both Russ Blandford and Philip Kelleher from the staff were present. Prior to the hearing there was a sweep of the room and there was monitoring during the hearing. The meeting commenced at 8:30 a.m. and went through until about 9:45 a.m. As usual, no transcript was taken.

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2. [REDACTED] started the briefing by discussing the origins of the Agency support [REDACTED] abroad. He pointed out the massive Soviet effort in the late 1940s in France and Italy and later in the underdeveloped countries. Mr. Philbin inquired the amounts of

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25X1A money expended during the early period and [REDACTED] said this 25X1A
might be [REDACTED] Mr. Philbin inquired as to precisely
how the money was spent and as to the results in the 1949-1950
period. He asked if [REDACTED] had personally handled this or had 25X1A
talked to people who were involved. [REDACTED] stated that he 25X1A
himself was not involved at that time. He continued that the results
were in fact very good. Mr. Philbin stated he wanted a short report
on his queries based on something better than simply reviewing the
files. In response to a question, it was indicated that very little is
being spent in this field now and it is coming to an end.

25X1C 3. In response to a general question, Mr. Helms indicated 25X1C
that under the Katzenbach report while flexibility is limited, nevertheless
there were no prohibitions against working in these international fields

25X1A [REDACTED] and that a certain amount of this work would 25X1C
continue to go forward.

25X1C 4. [REDACTED] discussed briefly the work with [REDACTED] 25X1C

25X1C [REDACTED] In the latter case he pointed out the excellent work 25X1C
that is being accomplished [REDACTED] In fact he pointed out that the
[REDACTED] seeing the need in the foreign field, had
come to Allen Dulles some years ago asking for help.

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[REDACTED] Mr. Hebert asked for
specifics as to who requested the Agency to get into this. The Director
pointed out that President Kennedy personally asked the Agency to move
in stating that he did not want another Communist state [REDACTED] 25X1C
The Director stated that only three or four people in the State Department,
about the same number in the Agency and only one or two in the White
House were aware of this operation. He further indicated that President
Kennedy followed the day-to-day operations of this activity on a personal

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basis. Mr. Hebert said he had assumed some of this but merely wanted the answer for the record to show the Subcommittee that CIA's involvement in many things abroad in fact was simply following orders of the Government.

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6. [REDACTED] then discussed our work with [REDACTED]

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Mr. Philbin indicated he had read or heard the Agency had supported some such organization and was very pleased to learn that this was not so. Mr. Hardy pursued in some detail [REDACTED] statement that [REDACTED] had come to the Agency. He did not seem to accept the fact that a private citizen would have developed enough knowledge and initiative to approach the Agency itself. [REDACTED] stated that he would check into this for more details and advise.

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7. Mr. Fisher inquired if we had done any work with [REDACTED]

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8. Mr. Philbin asked about reports of missiles and Soviet build up in Cuba. The Director again reviewed this situation indicating there had been no significant changes in the picture there and that this was a high priority topic for intelligence. Mr. Helms was queried whether he was aware of any organized effort in the U. S. to destroy the Agency or its credibility. The Director responded in the negative adding that, of course, the Agency is a prime target of the KGB and that a lot of the lines that they develop are carried either wittingly or unwittingly by groups, individuals, or the press in the U. S. There was considerable discussion by the members that something ought to be done but no one seemed to present any solid suggestions as to positive action.

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9. It was agreed to hold another meeting the following Tuesday, 23 May 1967, at nine o'clock with the thought that since there was no full Committee meeting it could run for about two hours. Two specific points were suggested - Subversion in Latin America and Communist China.

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cc: DCI thru Ex Dir
DDCI
ADDP

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